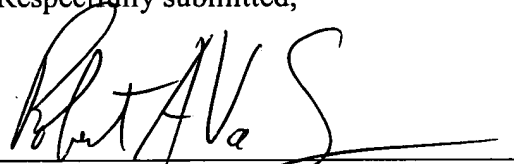


REMARKS

In this Preliminary Amendment, all claim amendments are fully supported throughout the specification and figures. For example, the Examiner's attention is directed to pages 10-13 and of the specification and the associated figures. However, support for the claims as well as the current claim amendments is provided throughout the specification. No new matter has been added.

The pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner believes certain amendments are necessary to clarify the present claims or if the Examiner wishes to resolve other issues by way of a telephone conference, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert A. Van Someren', written over a horizontal line.

Robert A. Van Someren
Reg. No. 36,038

Date: January 20, 2004

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